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Record Yields Expected for Corn and Cotton

According to a November 1 grower survey conducted by Tennessee Agricultural Statistics, the State's farmers are nearing the end of an outstanding growing season with record yields expected for corn and cotton. Although persistent rains during much of October caused delays in harvest of the State's cotton and soybean crops, growers are optimistic about expected yields on the remaining acreage. Nearly all of the State's corn was harvested by the first half of October, under good weather conditions. By the first full week of November, over 50 percent of both the soybean and cotton acreage had been harvested, lagging behind last year and the 5-year average due to wet conditions. The November forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 140 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from a year earlier and a new state record; **Cotton**, a record 844 pounds per acre and 38 pounds above 2003; and **Soybeans**, 40 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from a year ago, but the second highest yield on record.

Tennessee's **corn** production is forecast at 85.4 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year and the largest production in 84 years. Corn yields are expected to average 140 bushels per acre, 9 bushels better than a year ago and, if realized, a new state record. The State's planted area for corn is estimated at 680,000 acres, while acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 610,000 acres, down 20,000 from the previous year. Corn producers experienced almost ideal weather conditions during the harvest season. Virtually all of the State's corn had been combined by the second week in October, ahead of last year and normal. Very few fields were impacted by the wet weather experienced later in the month.

Soybean production is forecast at 47.2 million bushels, up slightly from 2003, and the highest production since 1984. Soybean yields are expected to average 40 bushels per acre, two bushels below last year but the second highest yield on record. The 2004 soybean planted area is estimated at 1.21 million acres, while acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.18 million acres, up 5 percent from last year and the highest in 5 years. Despite recent rains delaying soybean harvest by about a two weeks, producers remain positive with record yields being reported in many areas. As of November 8, fifty-two percent of the acreage had been harvested, behind both last year and the 5-year average. Almost 80 percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition during the first half of October.

The State's **cotton** production is forecast at 950,000 bales, up 20,000 bales from the last forecast and 60,000 bales above 2003. If realized, this would be the second highest production on record. Cotton yields are expected to average 844 pounds of lint per acre, 38 pounds better than a year ago and a new state record. Growers expect to harvest 540,000 acres, 10,000 more than 2003. Cotton producers have experienced wet, soggy fields during the past few weeks and as of November 7, only fifty-six percent of the cotton acreage had been harvested, almost three weeks behind average. Gins have managed to stay busy despite the rains, although some modules are now stranded until fields dry. Trucks and pickers will return to fields, as soon as weather permits.

United States: **Corn** production is forecast at 11.7 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 16 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of November 1, the yield is expected to average 160.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from October and 18.0 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be a record. **Soybean** production is forecast at 3.15 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October and 28 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.6 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from October and 8.7 bushels above last year. **All cotton** production is forecast at 22.5 million 480-pound bales, up 5 percent from October and up 23 percent from last year's production. Yield is expected to average a record high 818 pounds per harvested acre, up 36 pounds from last month. (Continued)

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, November 1, 2004, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	12,000	10,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	610	131	140	82,530	85,400
Cotton ¹	lb.	530	540	806	844	890	950
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	1,950	2.30	2.50	4,600	4,875
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,500	3,500
Soybeans	bu.	1,120	1,180	42.0	40.0	47,040	47,200
Tobacco, All	lb.	31.14	31.38	2,108	2,118	65,632	66,472
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	5.2	5.4	2,980	3,000	15,496	16,200
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.4	.42	3,350	3,400	1,340	1,428
Burley (31)	lb.	25.0	25.0	1,900	1,900	47,500	47,500
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.54	.56	2,400	2,400	1,296	1,344
Winter Wheat	bu.	270	280	50.0	49.0	13,500	13,720
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,613,300	9,458,900
Corn for grain	bu.	71,139	73,311	142.2	160.2	10,113,887	11,740,920
Cotton ¹	lb.	12,003	1,223	730	818	18,255	22,545
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.25	80,816	88,549
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,519,000	2,598,400
Soybeans	bu.	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.6	2,453,665	3,150,441
Tobacco, All	lb.	411,150	409,610	1,952	2,156	802,654	883,168
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.80	8.10	3,013	3,067	23,504	24,840
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	2.90	2.92	3,505	3,571	10,165	10,428
Burley (31)	lb.	152.30	154.10	1,850	1,958	281,698	301,710
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.84	2.86	2,748	2,883	7,805	8,244
Winter Wheat	bu.	36,541	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to November 1, Crop Years 2001-2004

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
All Cotton				
AL	287,400	234,150	301,600	355,850
AZ	216,400	214,500	147,000	185,500
AR	1,089,000	832,700	928,650	1,019,100
CA	667,700	584,000	365,950	700,150
FL	45,950	16,800	41,450	36,250
GA	666,700	478,500	607,350	723,150
LA	706,600	474,400	823,850	605,550
MS	1,345,400	1,051,050	1,446,600	1,408,500
MO	407,300	309,000	261,150	383,150
NM	23,400	8,800	13,050	7,600
NC	444,900	275,900	208,100	560,000
OK	56,500	59,750	50,050	65,300
SC	166,600	34,750	70,700	160,750
Tennessee	566,300	403,000	369,500	451,200
TX	2,069,900	1,689,000	1,740,600	2,046,400
VA	46,300	30,350	17,200	48,300
US	8,806,350	6,696,650	7,392,800	8,756,750

U.S. Farm Labor: There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 851,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 322,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.30 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, up 25 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.64 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 2004 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.22, up 2 percent from the 2003 annual average wage rate of \$9.08. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$8.45, up 14 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$8.55, up 2 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$8.42.

U.S. October Egg Production: U.S. egg production totaled 7.64 billion during October 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.56 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2004 averaged 344 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,221 eggs, up slightly from October 2003.

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced, Selected States and United States, During October 2003 and 2004

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	2,084	1,885	9,436	9,233	1,939	1,939
Arkansas	4,293	4,173	14,778	14,390	1,929	1,932
Georgia	11,138	11,227	20,200	20,323	2,139	2,140
North Carolina	3,416	3,355	10,576	10,826	1,995	1,977
All Other States ²	266,527	274,633	315,321	324,135	2,007	2,017
United States	272,027	279,873	335,333	344,194	2,218	2,221

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee included in other states.

U.S. Livestock Slaughter: Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 9 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 62,500 head, down 28 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was 22 pounds above last year, at 330 pounds. Hog kill totaled 8.97 million head, 7 percent below October 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 267 pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,400 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, unchanged from October a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter¹: United States, October 2003 and 2004

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	3,010	2,746	3,704,306	3,479,458	1,231	1,267
Calves	87	63	26,881	20,645	308	330
Hog	9,649	8,970	2,578,610	2,392,890	267	267
Sheep	265	241	35,626	32,418	134	134

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Cotton Leads Irrigated Crops in Tennessee

More cotton was irrigated than any other Tennessee crop during 2003, followed by vegetables, corn, and soybeans, according to a new report issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. To make these estimates possible, producers participated in a nationwide **2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey (FRIS)** earlier in the year, which collected data regarding agricultural irrigation practices in Tennessee, as well as for specific Water Resources Areas (WRA). Irrigation data have been collected from all farms and ranches in the census of agriculture since 1890. However, the 2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey is the sixth survey devoted entirely to the collection of on-farm irrigation data for the United States, and supplements basic irrigation data collected from operators in the census. The 2003 FRIS includes first-time statistics on water transfers, pumps powered by solar energy, expense for irrigation labor, primary method of water distribution by crop, and the percent of sales from irrigated crops. The top five irrigating states during 2003 were California, Nebraska, Idaho, Texas, and Arkansas.

Some highlights for Tennessee from the report include:

- A total of 34,429 acres were irrigated during 2003 from 759 farms reporting.
- Cotton acreage accounted for 28 percent of all acres irrigated in Tennessee and yields on those irrigated acres were 25 percent higher than yields on non-irrigated acres. Land in vegetables comprised 20 percent of irrigated acres. Corn acreage was also 20 percent of the irrigated area with average yields for grain reported as 22 percent above non-irrigated yields. Soybean acreage accounted for 15 percent of irrigated land, with average yields 14 percent above non-irrigated yields.
- The survey showed that 225 farms spent a total of \$988,000 on investment in irrigation equipment, facilities, and land improvements during 2003, or an average of \$4,393 per farm.
- Total energy expense for on-farm pumping of irrigation water during 2003 was \$441,000 or \$13.09 per acre irrigated.
- Sprinkler systems were the most popular method of water distribution, accounting for 93 percent of the acres irrigated. Gravity flow and drip trickle systems accounted for the remaining 7 percent.

Results from the **2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey** are used by equipment manufacturers, dealers, extension agents, government agencies, farmer associations, water and utility companies, and others to benchmark current practices, determine the most effective measures to ensure efficient irrigation, and predict the pathway of the future. The entire report may be found at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

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